REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendment to the specification, a minor typographical error involving the filing date of the priority applications has been corrected. No new matter has been introduced.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 30, 2003

Matthew L. Schneider Registration No. 32,814

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620